New York Archives magazine is a donor-funded educational product published quarterly by the NYS Archives Partnership Trust. A discounted subscription rate for educators is available. For more information, please visit us at www.nysarchivestrust.org.
Local Connections

All global and national historical events have connections at a local and individual level. The local and individual stories are often the most engaging and interesting for students and adults. The two articles featured in this edition of the New York Archives Educator Guide highlight these local and individual connections. In Battle for the Elms, Joe Collea focuses on the impact of Dutch elm disease on communities throughout New York State. This year’s high school Student Research Award winner, Alan Wang, explores the relationship of two individuals and their impact on New York State history as well as the development of Marxist theory in the published version of his research paper entry, Many Legacies.

Compelling Question

How do local and individual histories contribute to a better understanding of national and global events?

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

• create meaningful and persuasive understandings of the past by fusing disparate and relevant evidence from primary and secondary sources and drawing connections to the present

Selections

Battle for the Elms

By Joe Collea

Many Legacies

By Alan Wang

This resource includes supporting questions to guide students in the reading of the article and analysis questions for understanding the primary sources. All educational materials are aligned to the New York State Social Studies Framework. The learning objectives are taken directly from the Social Studies Practices and the content fits within the framework.

Link to articles


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Setting the Stage
Show video Plant Plague: Sudden Oak Death to students and discuss the impact of tree disease and the current ways that scientists are trying to fight oak death. https://ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/kqedq11.sci.plantplague/plant-plague-sudden-oak-death/

Guided Reading Questions
1. What was Dutch elm disease?

2. What was the cause of Dutch elm disease?

3. How did Dutch elm disease affect residents in New York?

4. Why was New York State greatly impacted by the disease?

5. What role did the elm play in American society?

6. How did the disease arrive in New York?

7. How did communities attempt to treat Dutch elm disease?

8. Why was the treatment ineffective?

9. Why did communities give up the fight to save the elm trees?

10. What was the overall impact of Dutch Elm Disease on local communities in New York State?
Analysis Questions

1. How many elm trees do you see in this photograph?
   ________________

2. Why would there be so many trees on this street?
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

3. What did the trees on this street do for the people that lived there?
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

4. What are the workers in the photograph doing?
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

5. How many workers does it take to complete this job?
   ________________

Analysis Questions

1. What is the jeep in this photograph doing?
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

2. How would this activity help the trees?
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

3. How would this activity impact the residents of this area?
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
Guided Reading Questions

1. Who was Lewis Henry Morgan?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Who was Ely Parker?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________

3. What crisis did the Seneca face in the 1840s?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________

4. How did Lewis Henry Morgan become familiar with the Seneca?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________

5. How did Lewis Henry Morgan help the Seneca?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________

6. According to the article, what was the global impact of Morgan and Parker’s friendship?
   ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Document Analysis

Analysis Questions

1. List all the objects in this drawing.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. Based on the objects you listed above, what kind of place was Cayuga Academy?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. What might life had been like for a student who attended this academy?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Summarize

1. Compare to the two place pictured above. How might life for Ely Parker been similar and/or different in these two places?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________